

U.S. Embassy, Lilongwe, Malawi
Security Message for U.S. Citizens - Airport Closure and Civil Servant Strikes
February 20, 2013

The U.S. Embassy in Lilongwe alerts U.S. citizens to the ongoing civil servant strikes, affecting most government ministries and offices. Government offices may be closed or short-staffed. Nurses and midwives have stated their intention to join the strike, and have also stated their intention to march in peaceful demonstrations. In addition, the Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe is currently shut down as workers have declared a strike. Workers at the Blantyre Chileka International Airport may join the strike as well. Negotiations between workers and the Malawian government are ongoing.

Please monitor radio and other local media for the latest information on the locations of demonstrations. We urge U.S. citizens to avoid demonstrations, large groups, or gatherings. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can become violent and should be avoided. If you are in an area where you feel threatened, leave the area immediately.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking our <http://lilongwe.usembassy.gov> website. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warning](#), Travel Alerts, and [Country Specific Information](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through [iTunes](#) and the [Android](#) marketplace, to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Malawi, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

U.S. Embassy, Lilongwe, Malawi
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Emergency after-hours telephone: 0999960178

SMS: Security Message from US Embassy Lilongwe: Government offices are affected by civil servant strike. Nurses may join in. Lilongwe airport closed due to strikes today. Please avoid demonstrations and crowds.